

SECRET

66-4758

4 November 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of PFIAB Panels

1. I called Pat Coyne today to discuss timing on getting the written reports on responses to Latin American "gaps and deficiencies" to Ambassador Murphy.

2. Coyne was aware of yesterday's conversations between Mr. Bross and Mr. Murphy. In fact Coyne said that when Murphy, during the first conversation with Bross, had asked for time to think over what he really wanted, he used that time to check with Coyne. Coyne obviously put the pitch in for written submissions. He said they also discussed covering [redacted] "as well as perhaps something on Cuba and [redacted]" I told Coyne that by the time Murphy called Bross back, he had settled on the first five.

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3. Coyne said, in answer to my question, that if we got the written responses to him before the end of next week, he would see to it that Murphy and Sides read them before the 9:00 meeting on the 15th. He said that he thought the combination of the written and the oral briefing might lay this to rest.

4. I asked whether he meant that this and the Taylor briefing would then suffice and we would not go through the exercise with the other panels, to which he replied that he meant nothing of the sort. He then launched into a dissertation on the whole question of the gaps and deficiencies, saying that he had previously tried to convey all of this to you people out there. He said that Clifford is "riding this horse pretty hard," because it was Clifford's original idea to solicit comments from the two Secretaries on gaps and deficiencies. He went on to say that Clifford had mentioned this to the President and that Clifford fully intended to have all panels examine the matter carefully, and that a report would be made back to the President in due course. Coyne said further that, again as he had tried to point out to us, this "could get out of hand unless it is handled intelligently."

5. I then switched to the subject of the whereabouts of Che Guevara, saying that we were puzzled about Murphy's statement that he had been told by a CIA briefer that Che was in Cuba, whereas it was evident from our

lack of knowledge about high policy councils in that country that we had no way to know. Coyne immediately jumped in, protesting that he had not planted this question with Murphy (to which I replied that I knew he had not), and that in fact CIA had repeatedly said that they did not know where [redacted] was, despite numerous rumors. Coyne recalled that we had sent him (25th and 26th of May) memoranda from Mr. FitzGerald saying exactly this, and that in oral briefings later the same thing had been said.

6. Coyne volunteered to try to get this straightened out with Murphy. I said we would appreciate this because we of course did not want to make an issue of it with him. I suggested that perhaps [redacted] might consult his usual voluminous notes and see if he could get a clue as to what sparked this with Murphy. Coyne said he would do this and let me know if anything developed.

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